

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, Applicant requests favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application.

Claims 1-16 and 19-21 remain pending in this application, with claims 1, 14, 15, 16, and 19 being independent. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claims 15, 16, and 19-21, and has cancelled claims 17, 18, 22, and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer. The specification and Abstract also have been amended. Support for the amendments, to the claims, specification, and Abstract can be found in the application as originally filed. No new matter has been added.

Initially, Applicant notes that claims 1-14 are allowed, that claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome a Section 101 rejection (discussed below), and that claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this Amendment, independent claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 18, as well as the features of intervening claim 17. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 16 is allowable.

The Abstract of the Disclosure stands objected to for exceeding one paragraph, and the specification stands objected to for informalities. The Abstract and specification have been amended herein to obviate these objections. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections are requested.

Claims 15 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. Those claims have been amended herein, generally along the lines suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant submit that the Section 101 rejection is now moot. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 101 rejection are requested.

Claims 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,987,226 (Ishikawa). Claims 16-17 and 19-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Ishikawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,026,416 (Kanerva).

Without conceding the propriety of these rejections, and solely to expedite allowance of this application, claims 22 and 23 have been amended herein, and claim 16 has been amended to include the features of objected-to claim 18. In addition, claims 19, 20, and 21 have all been amended to include features similar to those of objected-to claim 18. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the art rejections are moot and/or overcome. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102 and 103 rejections are requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections, and a Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Didas", is written over a horizontal line.

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A control method for an image forming apparatus for executing various jobs transmitted from an information processing apparatus includes analyzing a process transmitted from the information processing apparatus and generating a job according to the analysis. Each of information constituting a job, information constituting a binder, and information constituting a document, is managed. The generated job is divided into a smaller document unit to generate a document which is processed, the document is divided into a smaller page unit to generate a page, which is processed, and the page is divided into a smaller band unit to generate a band, which is processed. Requests are arbitrated for using a device from the document generation, document processing, page processing, and band processing. At least one of the document, page, and band processing is done according to formats of input and output data.